

Agricultural Department.

CONDUCTED BY ALBERT CHAPMAN.

To the Breeder's, Farmer, and Horticulturalist of Addison County.

The Editor and Proprietor of the Register has concluded to have a portion of it used for articles of interest to those engaged in Stock breeding or raising, as well as cultivating Farms, Orchards, and Gardens. We propose to take charge of the same, and hope to be assisted therein by you. We cannot expect to make the matter a success without your aid. Among your varied experiences there is much to interest and instruct if you will but make us the medium of conveying an account of them to the public. We will endeavor to hear all fairly and impartially.

Addison County has long been celebrated for her Horses and Sheep, and we trust she will soon be as famous for her superior cattle. What much has been done in this direction a great deal remains to be accomplished, and we shall be pleased to encourage any who may be engaged in the effort to make our county as famous for her beautiful herds of Cattle as for her noble Horses and fine flocks of Sheep. We intend also to favor the introduction of better systems of tillage, and look to those who have tried such to give as the benefit of their experience.

Will not some of our Horticulturalists give an account of their acquaintance with the different kinds of Fruits and Vegetables, and their manner of cultivating the same.

Will you assist us to make this department one of interest and instruction, and help fill it with original articles, instead of our drawing largely upon exchanges to fill the small space each week allotted to us.

Reducing Bones to Powder.

Prof. Johnson, of Yale Analytical Laboratory, gives the following method of reducing bones to powder, first communicated to the public by Mr. Pusey, an English agricultural editor and chemist.

The process depends upon the fact that bones consist, to the amount of one-third their weight, of cartilage or animal matter, which, under the influence of warmth and moisture, readily decomposes, (ferments or decays) and loses its texture, so that the bones fall to dust. From the closeness and solidity of the bony structure, decay is excited and maintained with some difficulty. A single bone or a heap of bones never decays alone, but dry or hazlen on exposure. If, however, bones in quantity be brought into close contact with some easily fermentable moist substance, but little time elapses before a rapid decay sets in. So, too, if fresh crushed bones are mixed with sand soil, or any powdery matter that fills up the spaces between the fragments of the bone and makes the heap compact, and then are moistened with pure water, the same result takes place in warm weather, though more slowly.

The practical process may be as follows: The bones, if whole, should be broken up as far as convenient by a single sledge hammer and made into alternate layers of sand, loam, saw-dust, leached ashes, coal ashes, or swamp muck, using just enough of any one of these materials to completely fill the cavity among the bones, but hardly more. Begin with a thick layer of earth or muck, and as the pile is raised, pour on stale urine or dung-heap liquor enough to moisten the whole mass thoroughly, and finally cover a foot thick with soil or muck. In warm weather the decomposition goes on at once, and in from two to six or more weeks the bones will have entirely or nearly disappeared. If the fermentation should spend itself without reducing the bones sufficiently, the heap may be overhauled and built up again, moistening with liquid manure and covering as before. By thrusting a pole or bar into the heap, the progress of decomposition may be traced from the heat and odor evolved.

Should the heap become heated to the surface so that the ammonia escapes, as may be judged by the smell, it may be covered still more thickly with earth or muck. The larger the heap the finer the bones, and the more stale urine or dung liquor they have been made to absorb, the more rapid and complete will be the disintegration. In these heaps horse dung or other manure may replace the ashes, etc., but earth or muck should be used to cover the heap.

This bone compost contains the phosphoric acid of lime in a finely divided state, and the nitrogen of the cartilage which has mostly passed into ammonia or nitrates, is retained perfectly by the absorbent earth or muck. When carefully prepared, this manure is adapted to be delivered from a drill machine with seeds, and, according to English farmers, fully replaces in nearly every case superphosphate made by the help of oil of vitrol.

"Dexter" a Morrill Colt—A Curious Exposure. The St. Johnsbury, Caldonian, says: A discovery has been made in regard to the famous trotting horse, "Dexter," now owned by Mr. Robert Bonner, of the New York Ledger, which is destined to create no little stir among the horse fanciers of this country, and at the same time take the credit of that celebrated horse from the Hambletonian stock, (where it has been awarded), and place it to the credit of the Morrill blood, where it belongs. In short, "Dexter" was raised in Danville, Caldonia county; his sire was the old French Morrill horse, and his dam the Bovee mare. This in brief is the pedigree of this wonderful horse, as the story goes. The person who has made this discovery is Cornelius Russell, a man who came here from Rockford, Illinois, last year. The manner of the discovery, as we understand it, was in this wise: Mr. Russell became impressed with the similarity of Dexter to the Morrill stock, and by considerable correspondence and inquiry, he traced his horse back from New York to Chicago, from Chicago to Lower Canada, thence to Concord, N. H., and from the latter place to Mr. Bovee, now of Passumpsic, but who then lived in Danville. On talking with Mr. Bovee, the latter said he raised a certain colt some year, which was uncommon likely one and brought him a good price. This colt went to Concord, N. H., after which he lost track of him. In describing this colt he described Dexter perfectly; and those who have seen this celebrated horse know that he is peculiarly marked. In addition to this, we understand Mr. Russell has the affidavits of all the parties through whose hands Dexter passed from the time he left Mr. Bovee until he came into the possession of Russell at Chicago. On learning these facts, Mr. Russell purchased the Bovee mare at once, and together with the Cushman and Richard Flint horses, which he already owned, started last Monday for Illinois. This, in brief, is a history of a remarkable case of horse imposture, and the result of its exposure must set up the Morrill blood, while those who have paid such enormous prices to get the same breed as Dexter—as they supposed—must feel rather cheap.

Several persons inhibited to me will be wanted on by an officer, unless they pay soon. H. A. SHELDON.

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